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NEWS AND NOTES

Nearly two hundred colored drawings of local fleshy fungi have recently been mounted in the swinging frames of the public museum of the New York Botanical Garden.

Dr. C. E. Lewis has resigned his position as associate in plant pathology in the Maine Experiment Station to enter private business.

Professor F. L. Stevens has resigned his position in the University of Porto Rico to become Professor of Plant Pathology in the University of Illinois. His address after February 1 will be Urbana, Illinois.

Dr. C. H. Kauffman, Assistant Professor of Botany in the University of Michigan, has been granted a research scholarship for February, 1914, to aid him in the preparation of manuscript for NORTH AMERICAN FLORA on the genus *Cortinarius*.

Leo E. Melchers, recently a graduate student and assistant in the Department of Botany at the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, has been appointed assistant plant pathologist at the Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station, Manhattan, Kansas.

Mr. C. G. Lloyd, of the Lloyd Library and Museum, Cincinnati, Ohio, spent part of October and November at the Garden examining the collection of polypores. Mr. Lloyd has recently been to Cuba and Florida collecting specimens of this group of fungi.

The Fungi Which Cause Plant Diseases is the title of a book by Professor F. L. Stevens which has just been issued by Macmillan. The object of the book is to acquaint the student with the more important fungi which cause diseases of plants. A review of the book, which contains 754 pages and many illustrations, will appear in some future number of MYCOLOGIA.

In a preliminary paper in *Phytopathology* for December, 1913, W. H. Long discusses *Polyporus dryophilus* and *P. dryadeus* and the rots caused by them. He says that the former is known in Europe under at least three different names, and that Robert Hartig confused it with *P. dryadeus*, which causes in this country a serious rot in the roots of various species of oak.

Mr. Fred D. Fromme, formerly a graduate student at Columbia University, and Mr. H. C. Travelbee, graduate of Purdue University, have become assistants in the botanical department of the Indiana Experiment Station, filling positions formerly occupied by Dr. F. D. Kern and Mr. J. B. Demaree, who have gone to Pennsylvania State College. Their chief work will be in connection with the rust problems under investigation by the department.

The report of the botanist of New York State for 1912 appeared November 28 as Museum Bulletin 167. It contains descriptions of thirty-six new species of fungi and four colored plates of edible and poisonous species. *Amanita ovoidea* Bull. is reported from New York, and is put in the edible list. It is so very similar to the white form of *Amanita phalloides* that no one should think for a moment of using it for food. *Mycena splendidipes* Peck is described from Richmond County and is said to be poisonous. It is a beautiful species, with bright-yellow stipe and yellowish-brown to pinkish-brown pileus.

CANTHARELLUS CLAVATUS FROM DULUTH

Since the appearance of my article on the identity of *Cantharellus brevipes* and *Cantharellus clavatus* in MYCOLOGIA, September, 1913, I have received a box of fine specimens from Dr. S. M. Stoker, Duluth, Minnesota, who says he has often collected the plant in the neighborhood of Duluth and referred it to *Cantharellus brevipes* Peck. Most of the specimens are cespitose with the margin of the pileus thin and spreading like those shown in Plate 94. Some of the plants are branching. They agree with the Neebish specimens, although in some of them the spores are a

little shorter, not over 8μ in length. Dr. Stoker writes that some Poles who collected mushrooms for food knew the plants and called them "pig's ears," which is the popular name for *Cantharellus clavatus* in parts of Europe. The species appears to be more frequent in the Lake Superior district than in the East, where the closely related *Cantharellus floccosus* is more frequently met with. I have never collected *Cantharellus floccosus* farther west than the Muskoka Lake region in Ontario. Specimens of that species have been sent to me recently, collected by S. E. Hutton in New Hampshire. The species has been described by Peck and Murrill and illustrated by Peck, Hard, and Nina Marshall. As noted by Peck, the two species, *Cantharellus floccosus* and *Cantharellus clavatus*, form a distinct group agreeing with each other in general characters, nature of the lamellae, and color of the spores. The two species differ in color and size of spores, and in the fact that *Cantharellus clavatus* is solid with the pileus truncate or but little depressed and nearly smooth, while *Cantharellus floccosus* has the pileus floccose-scaly and trumpet-shaped or infundibuliform and hollow to the base, with thin flesh. The stem in both species is normally short, but in *Cantharellus floccosus* it is sometimes lengthened and curved, extending deep into the mould. In all the collections I have seen, these distinctions have been marked. So far as I am aware, *Cantharellus floccosus* has not been identified with any European form

EDWARD T. HARPER.

A BOOK ON TROPICAL PLANT DISEASES¹

While works on plant pathology are becoming quite numerous, the present book is a pioneer in a new field, as no other work in English attempts to cover in adequate fashion the diseases of tropical plants for the entire world. Indeed, the literature of the subject is so scattered that few libraries can offer adequate facilities for the study of tropical plant diseases without such a guide

¹ The Diseases of Tropical Plants. By Melville Thurston Cook, Ph.D., Pp. xi, 317. Frontispiece and 85 text figs. London, Macmillan and Company, Ltd. 1913. Price 8/6.

as the present work offers. For such an undertaking, the author's experience in Cuba is a most valuable asset, as it has brought him into first-hand contact with many of the troublesome diseases of the tropics. The book is well written and copiously illustrated, a very large percentage of the cuts being original. In this respect it is more fortunate than some other plant pathologies which have appeared in recent years with the majority of cuts borrowed. The practice of borrowing extensively detracts from the value of any work, as it gives the reader a feeling that he is dealing with a second-hand subject, whereas original illustrations appeal to him as accompanying live matter treated by one who is acquainted with the subject at first hand.

The preface states that the "work is intended primarily for the planter; but it is hoped that it may be of some service to the student." This will account for the method of treatment adopted in the work. The chapters are arranged in three groups, those dealing in a general way with the nature and causes of plant diseases, those treating of the diseases themselves, and those which discuss the prevention and cure of these diseases. In the first group of chapters, the physiology and structure of plants are briefly outlined and the nature and symptoms of disease discussed. This is followed by a comprehensive survey of the classification of fungi with especial reference to the disease-producing forms. Bacteria, slime moulds, and other causes of plant diseases are also taken up in this connection.

In the second group of chapters, which constitutes the body of the work, the various diseases are discussed in detail both as to their symptoms and cause, as well as methods for their treatment. Here the diseases are grouped according to their host plants, which is a great convenience to the planter for ready reference, while the student of the fungi themselves will find the taxonomic references in the preceding chapters. In this connection, it is quite interesting to note that on the crops grown in both temperate and tropical regions serious diseases in the one region may be entirely absent from the other, or if present of only secondary importance.

The chapters on the prevention and control of disease

emphasize sanitation and prevention rather than the attempt to cure, once the crop is attacked. Remedial measures are discussed in detail, both as to the preparation and the application of the treatment. These chapters should not prove the least valuable portion of the book from the planter's standpoint. The book closes with an extended bibliography which must prove of great value to the student of tropical diseases from whatever angle he may approach the subject.

This work occupies a field so different from that of most works on plant pathology that it should be welcomed by the practical man of affairs, while it must be of no small value to the plant pathologist and to the mycologist in the tropics, as well as to all students of tropical fungi.

GUY WEST WILSON.